Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Soundings

Vol. 26, Issue 8 September 2010

Haiti Still In Crisis

Haiti is still in crisis. According to a July 30 situation report from the ELCA, the Caribbean nation of Haiti has yet to move into the recovery phase, following the Jan. 12 earthquake that left 1.5 million people displaced from their homes.

More than 190,500 households are still living in camps, said Megan Bradfield, associate director for International Disaster Response, ELCA Global Mission. Bradfield, who prepared the report, said many of these camps are "highly vulnerable to storms and flooding." An estimated 250,000 people died as a result of the earthquake.

In response to some of Haiti's critical needs, "the ELCA has supported a multinational, multilateral response to the earthquake that includes the coordination of relief and development agencies through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance," said Bradfield.

Haitians line up for water in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The ELCA has been a member of the ACT Alliance since 1995.

To date members of the ELCA have contributed more than $12.2 million in gifts to support disaster relief efforts in Haiti.

Editor's Note: More than 4 million people have been displaced by the recent flooding in Pakistan. The ELCA is supporting a planned response by Church World Services (CWS) and has has committed $100,000. Initial efforts by CWS has been to provide food and shelter kits, and emergency health assistance. To give to this disaster, or any disaster, please visit the ELCA's homepage or call 1-800-638-3522.

PROCESSED
DEC 1 7 2010
TU LIBRARY

A Word From The Acting Bishop

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself'."
Galatians 5:13-14 NRSV

The Rev. Jan Nesse

A couple of months ago, my husband and I became "bee owners." I read yesterday that you are not a "bee keeper" until you can find the queen among the thousands of bees in the hive. This afternoon, we became bee keepers.

Getting bees was not my idea but I must say, it has become a fascinating hobby. I have read more about bees in the last two months than I ever thought of reading before. There's a lot to learn about bees, certainly, but there's a lot more to learn from them. I've started to compile a list of lessons to be learned from bees. Here's the start of my list, but I keep learning.

Lesson 1: There can be only one queen in a hive. All the bees take care of the one queen and will get rid of any other queens that may hatch or enter the hive. Jesus gave the same lesson in Matthew 6:24.

Lesson 2: Bees have different jobs to do at different times in their lives. When they first hatch, they aren't strong enough yet to fly, so they take care of the household chores. When they are able to fly, they relentlessly fly out for pollen and nectar. Perhaps the bees are simply demonstrating the words of 1Corinthians 12.

Lesson 3: If you are selecting hives to merge, select for the possibility of the strongest hive. Never merge two weak hives as the outcome will be one larger weak hive. Paul spoke similarly in 2 Corinthians 6 when he spoke about partnering for a stronger, more vibrant faith.

continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

A Word From The Acting Bishop

Lesson 4: A little known fact about bees is that even the worker bees that seem to be flying in and out, carrying nectar and pollen all day long, actually take time to rest and hang out in the honey storage areas for a while so they can rest and take some nourishment. Deuteronomy 5:13 is about Sabbath rest, a discipline, yes, but patterned into nature from the very beginning.

Lesson 5: Every worker bee must forage in the later part of her life. No bee can stay in the hive the whole time. In that sense all bees are sent out. Ah yes, just as Matthew 28 says, "GO, and make disciples…" don't wait for others to come to you.

Well, it's just the beginning of my "sermon illustrations," Every time I watch the hive work as a single organism, each bee working for the good of the hive, cooperating and not competing, I think about the church and Christ's intention for us. May we live out that unity as well as the bees.

Soundings *is published monthly (one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org

Deadline for copy of the October 2010 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, September 1. Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

Synod Staff:

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director of Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop—buss@lutheransnw.org
Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org

Mission Investment Fund

What? You mean I can earn interest and help ministries of the Northwest Washington Synod grow for mission? Yes! In **thanksgiving** for **all** that God has entrusted to our care..... prayerfully consider making an investment that helps the ELCA Mission investment Fund loans money for new roofs, accessibility, food banks, pre-schools additions, homeless shelters and much more. With our 4.5 percent rate on our Mission Term Select (*CD*) type investment, your money will not only grow for you, but you will be investing for a "higher purpose." To put your money to work for you and for mission in the ELCA, call or email Margie P. Fiedler, Associate VP Marketing; 208-664-7973; margie.fiedler@elca.org or visit www.elca.org/mif. Remember that not only your congregation/ministry can invest, but so can you and your family. The minimum to invest is $100.

New Line Of Coffee

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is introducing a new line of Fair Trade coffees. This high-quality coffee, available to both individuals and congregations through the LWR Coffee Project,supports small-scale farmers and their communities.

The new offerings add to the 45 coffees already sold through the LWR Coffee Project. A sample pack comes with a free tasting kit, including materials to host a tasting event, complete with giveaways and promotional materials. To host an LWR coffee tasting event, call 774-776-7340.

Lutherans have been leading the charge in Fair Trade since 1996. Today, Lutherans are Equal Exchange's largest group of faith-based customers, purchasing more than 1,100 tons of coffee since the beginning of the project. To order Coffee with a Lutheran Flavor, and for Fair Trade resources, visit www.lwr.org/coffee

Fall Bishop Convo

Please join rostered leaders and spouses at this year's Fall Bishop Convo to be held Sunday, Oct. 10, through Tuesday, Oct. 12, at Seabeck Christian Conference Center in Seabeck. This year's theme is: *Wisdom's Wonder: God's Mysterium Tremendum in the World* with speaker Dr. William P. Brown.

Dr. Brown is Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. He has abiding interests in the use of scripture in the life of the church and contemporary theological discourse, as well as in the ancient cultural contexts out of which scripture emerged. Specific interests include Psalms, wisdom literature, Pentateuch, Isaiah, history of ancient Israel, and modern literary theory. His most recent publication is "The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder."

Cost is $195 double occupancy; $295 single occupancy. **Registration deadline is September 18, 2010.** For registration form and more information please visit www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/convo.asp.

Glocal Mission Gathering

Connecting Global and Local

Mission takes place everywhere in the world. By understanding how God's activity is changing the world around us, we can build and develop skills that help us engage, serve, support, learn, and travel more faithfully, globally and domestically. These skills can help you be an effective part of God's mission.

The Global Mission event taking place closest to our synod is Oct. 8 and 9 at West Linn Lutheran Church, West Linn, Oregon (south east of Portland).Registration is only $35 per person. To reach the planner for this event email sunitha.mortha@elca.org. For more information about the event visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on Calendar.

LPPO Update

by Matt Keadle, Seminary Intern

lppointern@lsnw.org
206-464-4133

Farewell from Seminary Intern Matt

Dear friends: For the last 12 months I have been blessed to serve as a seminary intern here at LPPO of Washington; I now return to Chicago for a final year of study. I have learned much from my time here in Washington State, but I am most grateful for one experience in particular: I have been blessed to see the body of Christ at work in the world, people of God from across the state who are serving their neighbors and striving for justice and peace, the baptized living baptized life. I thank all of you for that experience, and I pray God's blessing on your continued ministry in this place.

First Annual Summit of Advocating Congregations

Over the past eighteen months, a dozen congregations from across the state of Washington have signed up to be *Advocating Congregations* in covenant relationship with the LPPO and with other Advocating Congregations. Many more congregations have continued their commitment to advocacy in other ways, engaging in advocacy education, public witness and financial support of LPPO.

This fall, we are planning the first annual gathering of congregational advocacy teams from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26, at Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland.

Whether you have signed up for the Advocating Congregations program or are seeking ways to deepen advocacy ministries at your congregation, we hope this meeting will be a time of mutual support, encouragement, and finding ways for the religious community of this state to be a more effective voice for justice.

The theme is *From Being Solitary to Solidarity*. A light meal will open the gathering. A donation of $5 is suggested to cover the costs of the meal. We invite you to share this information with members of your congregation's advocacy team. RSVP to 206-464-4133 or lppooffice@lcsnw.org.

Important Youth Ministry Summit

Acting Bishop the Rev. Jan Nesse wrote in her column last month about youth ministry in our synod. She said that a synod wide vision for youth ministry is a place to start.

A ***Youth Ministry Summit*** will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, at Holy Spirit in Kirkland. Lunch will be served. Registration information will be sent to your congregation inviting pastors and other *decision makers and vision bearers* to participate.

If you care about the future of the church, the faith of our young people and life in the northwest please attend this summit so that together we can describe a vision, chart a course and commit to make the priority of youth ministry more than a wistful longing or an immobilizing challenge.

What's On Our Plate?

The Ethics of Eating

Explore the connection between what we eat and how it effects the rest of the world at an event called *What's On Our Plate? The Ethics of Eating*. The event will be held on October 15 and 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church & Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Jim McDonald, Managing Director of Bread for the World. A youth track will also be available for high school students. For more information, contact Kristie Neklason at hunger@lutheransnw.org.

Day Of Prayer For Peace

On Sept. 21, churches and communities throughout the world are committing to the International Day of Prayer for Peace (IDPP) through prayer, meditation and other forms of spiritual observance. Visit www.elca.org/nonviolence/

Ministry and Money

Annual Stewardship Event

It's time to gather a team from your congregation to attend our annual stewardship training event on Saturday, Sept. 25, at St. Luke's Lutheran, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, 425-822-7907.

This year the Synod's Stewardship Committee is excited to welcome a husband and wife team: Philip and Janet Jamieson, who are co-authors of the 2009 book ***Ministry and Money.***

Janet is Associate Professor of Business and Accounting at the University of Dubuque, Iowa. As a CPA she has 13 years of public accounting experience and has consulted with clergy and congregations.

Philip is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, a PC-USA seminary. Ordained in the United Methodist Church, he has more than 20 years of pastoral experience.

Who will benefit from this training? Pastors, Stewardship Leaders, Finance Team Members, Treasurers and all others who want to see your mission and ministry on solid financial footing.

In addition to stewardship, topics will include budgeting as an expression of God's mission, financial transparency in the church, understanding financial reports, and developing a theology of money.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the training will end by 2:30 p.m. The cost is $20 per person and includes lunch.

To register in advance or for more information, please contact Pastor Laurie Jones at 206-784-1306 or pastorlaurie@bflcs.org.

Please invite your ecumenical friends, especially Presbyterian and United Methodist, to also consider attending.

Recent High School Graduates

As many of your recently graduated high school seniors are now heading off to college, please take a moment to tell *Lutheran Campus Ministry* about your students, and also to talk with your students about our ministry.

Please refer all students headed to or already at a college or university. Students coming to the University of Washington will be contacted by my student leadership team and myself. Contact information for students headed to other universities will be forwarded to the appropriate *Lutheran Campus Ministry* site or partnership congregation. Please mail, or email contact info to: Lutheran Campus Ministry, 4525 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105; 206 524-7900; chscott@drizzle.com.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is a direct extension of your congregation on campus, providing Word and Sacrament ministry for students. We help young adults live out and connect their faith on college and university campuses across the U.S.

Thank you for your time and care in referring your students. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information or if I can serve your ministry with young adults in any way.

2010 Winner: Best Alternative Worship Song

The Rev. Gretchen Weller Mertes

Recently *Lutheran Songs Today* named Gretchen Weller Mertes as the winner in their 2010 National Song Contest. Gretchen won for her song *New Prayer.* In a previous life, Gretchen toured around the countryside in true Lutheran Rockstar fashion, playing at youth gatherings and churches across the country, and sharing the stage with other Lutheran royalty such as Rachel Kurtz, Dave Scherer and many more. Gretchen currently spends her time as the worship pastor at St. Matthew's Lutheran and the pastor of a new start, Luther's Table, both ministries located in Renton.

Open Door Ministry 10th Annual Gala and Dinner Auction

Open Door Ministries is an extended ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. Open Door provides pastoral care and referrals for persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the gay and lesbian community. Since 1992, *Open Door* has provided pastoral care for more than 1,100 people.

The Annual Gala Dinner and Auction is the only fundraising event that supports this ministry. This year's dinner and auction will be held from 5 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6, at Brockey Center on the South Seattle Community College Campus in West Seattle. The college is known for its fine Culinary Department, which will be serving the meal. Cost for the evening is $65 per person before Monday, Nov. 1; and $75 per person as of Nov. 1. We are expecting more than 200 people and have a goal to raise more than $50,000.

To register for the event, please call or email Darleen Atik, 425-672-8692; darleenatik@comcast.net.

Come To The Water

Come to the Water is an Ecumenical Catechumenal Process Training Event that will be held February 18-19, 2011, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA.

The catechumenal process is a journey of faith formation for those new (and not so new) to Christianity.

Speakers are Bishop Rob Hofstad, SWWA Synod; and Ann McElligott, Episcopalian and author of *The Catechumenal Process: Adult Initiation and Formation for Christian Life and Ministry.* This training event is recommended for congregation teams of two or more, The cost hasn't been set, but will include some meals. For more information on the training event, contact Pastor Martha Maier, maierm@comcast.net or 360-892-7160. For more on the catechumenate, visit www.catechumenate.org.

Here 'n There

- **Central Lutheran in Bellingham** holds a potluck for seniors at noon on the second Monday of every month.
- **Holy Trinity Lutheran on Mercer Island** is holding a *4th and 5th Dog & Car Wash* on Sunday, Aug. 22. The goal is to raise $500 for the Angel Tree and Build-a-Bear for EMT's this coming year.
- **Members of Quenn Anne Lutheran in Seattle** sent 68 quilts, 21 layettes, 25 school kits and 52 health kits to LWR in May. And **members of Our Saviour's in Stanwood** shipped 98 quilts, 12 layette kits and two soap boxes to LWR. The congregation also gave five baby quilts to the food bank children's Christmas House, as well as five to the men's shelter and 20 to the womens shelter in Everett.
- **Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland** had more than 169 children at their *God's Great Get-Together* Vacation Bible School. More than 90 volunteers gave of their time and talent to make the event a success.
- **Members of Morning Star Lutheran** and Monroe United Methodist Church, both located in Monroe, held a joint worship and potluck on August 8.
- **First Lutheran in Mount Vernon** provides a dinner meal the last Tuesday of every month at *Friendship House,* a shelter for the homeless. Members also volunteered at the Smokey Point Rest Stop in July handing out refreshments and cookies. For their efforts $617.65 was donated to *Skagit Community Action.*
- **First Lutheran Church in Bothell** is beginning to plan for a celebration in 2011 to mark 125 years of ministry.
- As the construction gets underway at **Gethsemane Lutheran in Seattle**, the congregation will no longer be able to worship in that location. Children's Hospital Research Center (across the street from Gethsemane)

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

Here 'n There

has offered to let the congregation use space in their building for Sunday morning worship. There will be security measures that the congregation will need to abide by.

- **Greg Pearey, grandson of Ida Morgan, member of First Lutheran in Bothell,** has been drafted by the New York Mets. He had just completed his junior year at Oregon State University.
- **Mount Si Lutheran in North Bend** provided food and supplies to Tent City occupants in June at the Lake Washington United Methodist Church in Kirkland. The congregation's next dinner date is September 11 at Bear Creek United Methodist Church in Woodinville.
- **Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran in Stanwood** raised more than $3,400 for *Relay for Life!* Thrivent Financial is adding another $500 in matching funds.
- **Pacific Lutheran University's inspirational Christmas concert** returns this year in Seattle's Benaroya Hall. The program features the Choir of the West, University Chorale and members of the University Symphony Orchestra performing hymns, carols and choral orchestral masterwork, all in the great tradition of Lutheran choral music. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6, at Benaroya Hall, 200 University St., Seattle, WA 98101.
- **Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland** invites writers from around the Synod to join our writers group. We meet to share our writings, be encouraged to write, get some feedback and use our talents. Writers of prose, poetry, novels, devotionals and music are all invited to come and share as you would like. Our next meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 11, is at Holy Spirit Lutheran 10021 NE 124th St Kirkland, WA 98034 from 10:30 am to noon. Come and join the fun. Contact Pastor Larry Morris at PLarryMorris@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Within Our Family

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

† **Richard Bridges,** former member of Synod Council

† **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita

† **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad,** St. Peter, Clinton

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda

† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We Pray For:

† **Caroline Anderson, widow of The Rev. Arnie Anderson and mother of Associate in Ministry, Paul A. Anderson,** died July 14 in Bothell. Her commital service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetary in Everson on July 16. (The cemetary is about a quarter of a mile from the home she was born in.) A memorial service was held on August 5 at First in Bothell. Cards may be sent to her children: Paul and Jan Anderson, 10721 Valley View Road Apt 203, Bothell, WA 98011; and to JoMarie Anderson, 142060 Kelly Canyon Rd, Bozman, MT 59715.

† **Alice Sproule, mother of the Rev. Jocelyn Carson,** Trinity in Everett, died peacefully on August 13. Alice suffered from Alzheimer's. A memorial service will be held at at 11 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 23, at Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor. Memorial gifts may be made to the Alzheimer's Association - Western and Central Washington State Chapter or to a Lutheran Church of your choice. Cards may be sent to: Jocelyn Carson, Trinity Lutheran Church, 2324 Lombard Ave, Everett WA 98201-3095.

† **A memorial service for Keith Anderson, brother of the Rev. Chris Anderson,** Interim Pastor, Christ, Ferndale, was held on August 14 at Brodniak Hall, Anacortes Hogh School. Keith was retired from a career as a high school counselor where he had a positive

continued on page 14

continued from page 14

Within Our Family

impact on many, many students. Cards may be sent to: Chris and Jeanne Anderson, 3422 W 8th Place, Anacortes, WA 98221.

† **The Rev. Eduardo Cabrera,** El Camino De Emaus, Burlington, underwent a medical procedure on July 29. **His wife, Luz Maria,** met with specialists at Virginia Mason Hospital regarding the best course of treatment for a brain anurysm. Cards may be sent to: Eduardo and Luz Maria Cabrera, 2412 Northridge Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98223.

† **Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry,** Lord of Life, Renton, had a successful lumpectomy on August 4 with the good news that the nodes are clear. Cards may be sent to: Dianne Johnson, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 12819 - 160th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98059-8519.

† **The Rev. Marillyn Schultz Rothermel,** Interim, Our Saviour's, Arlington, fell on July 24 spraining her ankle and breaking her right wrist. (She is right handed.) She had surgery on July 29 to insert a plate and eight screws in her wrist. Her ankel is slowly healing. Cards may be sent to: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 615 East Highland Drive, Arlington WA 98223.

† **Dorothy Lundahl, wife of the Rev. Stuart Lundahl (ret.)**, underwent bypass surgery on August 6. Cards may be sent to: Stuart and Dorothy Lundahl, 325 N 138th St, Seattle, WA 98133.

† **Jyoti Mutschler, daughter of Associate in Ministry Catherine Mutschler**, Faith, North Lakewood, is very ill and has been hospitalized. Please no visitors at this time. Cards and prayers are welcome. Cards may be sent to: Cathy and Jyoti Mutschler, PO Box 70, North Lakewood, WA 98259-0070.

Prayers of Celebration:

† The Rev. Will and Kaia Sappington and big sister Evie Lu welcome twin brothers Guthrie and Zevon, born Thursday, July 15.Cards may be sent to: The Sappington Family, Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 22818 SE 8th St, Sammamish, WA 98074.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Justin Johnson	Prince of Peace, Spokane	8/1/2010
Coe Hutchison	Grace, Port Townsend	7/1/2010
Matthew Maas	Gloria Dei, Lynnwood	7/1/2010
Laurin G Vance	Burlington, Burlington	8/1/2010
Installations		
Tor Berg	First, Bothell	7/11/2010
Christopher Hogstad	Light of the Cross, Bothell	7/18/2010
Matthew Maas	Gloria Dei, Lynnwood	8/29/2010
Drahomir Oslik	Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah	7/25/2010
Laurin Vance	Burlington, Burlington	8/8/2010
Resignations		
Phil Lee	Glendale, Burien	8/15/2010
Retirements		
John Clauson	The Hearthstone, Seattle	7/1/2010
Mark Reitan	Trinity, Lynnwood	10/1/2010
Transfers in/out of Synod		
Justin Johnson	To Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod	8/1/2010

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Burien, Glendale	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	i	John O'Neal, Pastor
Ferndale, Christ	PR	TR	Christen Anderson, Interim
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Paul D. Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	I	Linda Larson, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	I	Karen Hanson, Interim
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Central	PR	P	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	C	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR	= Pastor
A	= Associate
AIM	= Associate in Ministry
DM	= Diaconal Minister
A/SP	= Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I	= Interviewing
C	= Calling
NV	= New Vacancy
V	= Vacancy
SC	= Synod Call
TR	= Transition process
P	= Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO	= Div for Outreach Transformation Process